

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are canceled and newly added Claims 9-16 are presented for examination. The newly presented claims are added in order to comply with U.S. patent practice by deleting multiple claim dependencies and improving the readability of the claims. Otherwise, the newly presented claims embrace comparable subject matter as the original claims. PCT Rule 66.8(a).

No new matter has been added, and the new set of claims do not go beyond the disclosure of the international application as filed. Thus, PCT Article 34(2)(b) is not violated. All of the claims presented can be substantiated by the application as originally filed.


An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

  
James H. Knebel  
Registration No. 22,630